

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claim 21 is newly presented herein. In an Office Action mailed March 12, 2008, the Examiner rejected various claims of claims 1-16 under both paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. §112. There are currently no outstanding prior art rejections. The Examiner indicated claims 17-20 as being allowable. Applicant has had various communications with the Examiner regarding the outstanding rejections. Most productively, a telephone interview was held on May 13, 2008 with one of the Inventors, Mr. George C. Konstantakis, Examiner Lugo, and the undersigned. Applicants sincerely appreciate the Examiner's time and efforts with respect to resolving the various rejections of the pending claims.

During the telephone conference it was resolved that the most substantial issue with respect to the pending claims was applicant's use of the phrase "at least one" with respect to various features of the claims, i.e. connecting elements and door lever turn directions. In resolving this misunderstanding, it was resolved that the claims as presented herein define the present invention over the art of record. That is, there is no art of record of a door safety lock configured to cooperate with a door lever and adjacent door structure in a manner as defined by the present claims. As amended, claim 1 defines a safety lock wherein a connecting element extends from a portion of the safety lock and interacts with a stationary door structure to prevent rotation of the door lever in a direction toward the connecting element. There is no comparable assembly or operation in the art of record. As such, Applicant believes claim 1 clearly defines the claimed invention as enabled by the specification. Applicant has amended claims 8, 10, 13, and 14 to comport with the amendment to claim 1. These amendments are believed to resolve any ambiguity with respect to claims 1-16. Accordingly, Applicant believes claims 1-16 are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 17 was also discussed during the telephone communications discussed above and it was agreed that claim 17 needed to be amended to resolve a terminology issue therein. As amended, Applicant believes claim 17 clearly defines an aspect of the present invention in a manner that is consistent with the written description. Accordingly, claims 17-18 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner also noted a correction to the preamble of claim 19. Applicant has made the requested correction and in no way believes that this amendment otherwise effects the previously indicated allowability of this claim.

During the various communications with the Examiner regarding the Office Action of May 12, 2008, the subject matter of claim 21 was also discussed. The Examiner advised that this subject matter would also be allowable as being in compliance with the applicable rules and

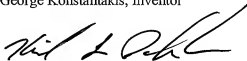
clearly describing the present invention. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's efforts with respect to drafting and revising this claim as well.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-21.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1170 the amount of \$130.00 associated with entry and consideration of claim 21 presented herein. Although no other fees are believed due with this response, Applicant hereby authorizes charging, and/or crediting any overpayment, of fees which may be due or payable to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved which would otherwise hinder passage of this matter to allowance.

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